

OPEN SPACE COUNCIL
July 20, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Legislative Hall
Senate Hearing Room, Second Floor
Dover, Delaware

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:

John R. Schroeder, Chairperson
Rep. Gerald Brady
Sen. Bruce Ennis
Paul Boswell, Esq
Dorothy Leventry

Advisory To:

Shawn Garvin, Secretary, DNREC

Ex-Officios:

None

Staff:

Tim Slavin, Director, HCA
Patricia Cannon, Director, Special Projects, DOS
Matthew Chesser, Administrator, Parks & Recreation, DNREC
Elena Stewart, Parks & Recreation, DNREC
Craig Rhoads, Fish & Wildlife, DNREC
Austin Short, DDA
Chris Miller, Delaware Forest Service
Kerri Yandrich, DNREC, DCCE
Kristin Barnekov-Short, DNREC Chief of Staff
Lisa Borin-Ogden, Deputy Secretary, DNREC

Visitors:

Cathy Parsells, Executive Director, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
Richard Tull, Treasurer, Nanticoke Conservancy
Marlene Mervine, Executive Director, Nanticoke Conservancy

I. Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements

John Schroeder, Chairperson, called the July 20, 2018 Open Space Council (OSC) meeting to order.
He welcomed Council members, staff and visitors.

II. Minutes of December Meeting

The minutes of the April 6, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Financial Report

Elena Stewart presented the financial report:

Open Space Program Fund Outlook			
7/20/18			
Current Funds			
Realty Transfer Tax	7/9/2018	\$4,147,806.12	
Garrett Snuff Mills Property	12/6/2017	\$7,000.00	
Whitehead	12/6/2016	\$10,000.00	
ABC Woodlands (DFS)	12/6/2017	\$1,835,000.00	
JGR, LLC (NVF)	12/6/2017	\$300,000.00	
Selby	12/6/2017	\$425,000.00	
McClements	12/6/2017	\$1,000.00	
Wolfe Neck	4/6/2018	\$5,000.00	
Mispillion Harbor	4/6/2018	\$300,000.00	
Groome	4/6/2018	\$1,000,000.00	exp 7/20/18
Total		\$3,883,000.00	
Balance Available Through 12/15/18		\$264,806.12	

IV. Old Business

A. Completed projects

1. Mispillion Harbor Properties, Mispillion Preserve, F&W – Craig Rhoads shared that the Hoch Property had been finalized; however, they were still working on the 2 properties on the southeast corner of the project which would be discussed in Executive Session.

V. New Business

- A. Elena shared the Regulations were to be published in the August 1 issue of the Monthly Register of Regulations since the previous version had a typo. Once the public comment period ended, the Regulations would be final.
- B. Council Open Discussion
None.
- C. Public Comments
Marlene Mervine shared that the Nanticoke Conservancy was working on a joint project with the National Park Service to establish a trailhead for the Captain John Smith Water Trail in Seaford at an old oyster house.

VI. Executive Session

- A. Discussion of Site Acquisitions

VII. Open Session

A. Council Project Recommendations

1. Deerfield Farms Property, Parks, Fork Branch Natural Area (12.6 acres)
Paul Boswell made the motion to approve up to \$275,000 for the acquisition of fee simple title to the Deerfield Farms Property with the understanding that a lesser amount would be used if it was only necessary to acquire a conservation easement on the property. Dorothy Leventry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Masten Property, F&W, Milford Neck Wildlife Area (58 acres)
Dorothy made a motion to approve up to \$260,000 for the acquisition of the Masten Property in Milford Neck. Rep. Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. Burrows Property, F&W, Eagles Nest Wildlife Area (185 acres)
Dorothy made a motion to approve up to \$1,115,000 for the acquisition of the Burrows Property. Rep. Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. Caffini Property, F&W, Eagles Nest Wildlife Area (26.9 acres)
Rep. Brady made a motion to approve up to \$400,000 for the acquisition of the Caffini Property. Dorothy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
5. Hamonko Property, F&W, Tappahana Wildlife Area (22 acres)
Paul made the motion to approve up to \$55,000 for the acquisition of the Hamonko Property. Rep. Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
6. Thorton Property, F&W, Tappahana Wildlife Area (7 acres)
Rep. Brady made the motion to approve up to \$60,000 for the acquisition of the Thorton Property. Sen. Ennis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
7. Cooch Property, HCA (9.64 acres)
Rep. Brady made the motion to approve up to \$885,000 for the acquisition of the Cooch Property. Dorothy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
8. Kaiser Property, HCA (1.1 acres)
Rep. Brady made the motion to approve up to \$300,000 for the acquisition of the Kaiser Property, contingent on the appraised value determined by an appraisal. Dorothy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Open Space Council is scheduled for September 14, 2018 in Legislative Hall, Second Floor, Senate Hearing Room, Dover, DE 19901, starting at 9:00 a.m. Dorothy Leventry let the Council know she had moved to Pennsylvania and questioned whether she would have to vacate her position since she is no longer a Delaware resident. John asked Elena to look into whether she could still stay on.

John thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.